

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03796 310615Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02

SCS-03 SCA-01 DPW-01 AID-05 EUR-12 NEA-09 SY-05 IO-10

/103 W

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P 310405Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4367

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER PINS VS

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE CONCERNING US CITIZENS

REF: A. SAIGON 3383. B. SAIGON 3745

1. CHIEF "PRG" DELEGATION TO FPJMT HAS RESPONDED TO CHIEF USDEL MARCH 21 MEMO REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FOR US CITIZENS IN BAN ME THUOT (REFTEL) WITH MARCH 27 MEMO WHICH REJECTS IDEA THAT ANY SUCH TASK IS PROPER FPJMT FUNCTION UNDER PROVISIONS PARIS ACCORDS. "PRG" ASSERTS THAT DEAD OR MISSING AFTER 28 JANUARY 1973 NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FPJMT.

2. "PRG" MEMO CONCLUDES WITH STATEMENT: "ALL FOREIGNERS WHO IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR NATIONALITIES LIVE IN THE LIBERATED AREAS OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM, PROVIDED THAT THEY EARN THEIR HONEST LIVING AND ABIDE BY THE LOCAL LAWS, WILL BE GIVEN THE POLICY OF PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE BY THE PRG/RSVN. THE AMERICANS POINTED OUT BY YOU IN YOUR REFERENCE LETTER, IF IN REALITY STILL IN THE LIBERATED AREAS, WILL BE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE-MENTIONED

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 03796 310615Z

POLICY."

3. ON MARCH 28 DR. KING AND MR. MANGHAM OF CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE (CMA) (STATE 61272) AND MR. JOSEPH SMITH, FEDERAL ELECTRIC EMPLOYEE (SAIGON 3016) MET WITH "PRG" FPJMT DELEGATION TO SEEK ASSISTANCE REGARDING MISSIONARIES AND FAMILY, RESPECTIVELY, WHO HAD BEEN IN BAN ME THUOT AREA. DRV DELEGATION REFUSED TO MEET WITH THESE PEOPLE, ASSERTING THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ANYONE MISSING IN THE DRV AND THEREFORE THERE IS "NO PRACTICAL USE FOR A MEETING."

4. THE MEETING WITH THE "PRG" PROVED FRUITLESS. CMA AND SMITH MADE HUMANITARIAN APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE, BUT LT COL SON, CHIEF "PRG" DEL, SAID THEIR REQUEST DID NOT FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE FPJMT BUT HE WAS SEEING THEM "TO SHOW GOODWILL."

5. SON WENT ON TO MAKE THE POINT THAT MATTERS FALLING AFTER 28 JANUARY 1973 OR WHICH MIGHT OCCUR IN THE FUTURE "ARE MATTERS FOR THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED--THAT IS, THE PRG/RSVN AND THE OTHER GOVERNMENT. THESE PROBLEMS CAN THEN BE SOLVED BY OTHER MEANS WITH WHICH I AM NOT YET FAMILIAR."

6. KING THEN SAID THAT "PRG" SPOKESMAN MARCH 22 (SAIGON 3319) "GAVE THE WORLD THE IMPRESSION YOU ARE CONCERNED WITH HUMANITARIAN MATTERS," BUT SON'S WORDS INDICATE "THAT HUMANITARIANISM IS NOT YOUR CONCERN AT ALL." KING SAID HE WOULD "ALERT SENATOR KENNEDY AND OTHER IMPORTANT SENATORS CONCERNING THE LACK OF HUMANITARIAN INTEREST OF THE 'PRG' AS SHOWN HERE TODAY. I WILL ALSO APPEAL TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE GENEVA CONVENTION, THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND UN RESOLUTIONS, AND THE FACT THAT CIVILIANS ARE NOT BEING TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE PROVISIONS BY THE 'PRG'."

7. SON SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHY KING HAD RAISED MATTERS OF SENATOR KENNEDY, US CONGRESS, AND US PUBLIC OPINION. "KENNEDY CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THE HUMANE POLICY OF THE PRG/RSVN TOWARDS POWS, EXPECIALLY TOWARDS THOSE US POWS CAPTURED BY THE PRG/RSVN AND RELEASED."

8. SON ADDED: "I SAID AT THE BEGINNING THAT IF THESE PEOPLE ARE IN OUR AREA YOU SHOULD NOT WORRY-- IF THEIR WORK IS AS YOU HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 03796 310615Z

STATED. OBVIOUSLY THEY WILL BE GIVEN THE PROTECTION OF THE PRG/RSVN--THIS HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED OFTEN-- IT IS NOT MERELY WORDS." "LET ME REPEAT AGAIN OUR GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. THESE PEOPLE WERE NOT CAPTURED BY US. BUT WHEN THE PEOPLE ROSE UP THEY JUST HAPPENED TO BE IN THE AREA. THE PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES WILL PROTECT THEM. IF THEY WANT TO RAMIAN AND LIVE IN THE LIBERATED AREAS, WE WILL CREATE FACILITIES TO SUPPORT THEM. IF THEY WANT TO GO TO ANY OTHER AREAS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL CREATE

GOOD CONDITIONS FOR THEM TO GO. REMEMBER THE PRG/RSVN'S TREATMENT OF THE TWO NUNS FROM NEW ZEALAND IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. OUR LOCAL AUTHORITIES GUARANTEED THEIR SAFETY AND ASSISTED THEM IN RETURNING TO SAIGON-CONTROLLED AREAS. IF ALL YOU SAY IS TRUE AND THEY ARE EARNING AN HONEST LIVING, YOU HAVE NO WORRY."

9. SON WAS ASKED IF HE WOULD COMMUNICATE THE "PURELY HUMANITARIAN" REQUESTS (INCLUDING SOME DOCUMENTATION ON THE MISSIONARIES PROVIDED BY KING) THAT HAD BEEN MADE TO HIS HQ. HE REPLIED THAT "UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE NO WAY TO GET THEM TO OUR GOVERNMENT." (COMMENT: A REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT THE SAIGON-LOC NINH TPJMC LIAISON FLIGHT HAS NOT BEEN FLOWN RECENTLY. END COMMENT.)

10. WHEN PRESSED ON THIS, SON REPEATED HIS EARLIER POINT THAT "THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE SUCH PROBLEMS IS BILATERALLY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRG/RSVN AND THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT, NOT THROUGH THE FPJMT DELEGATIONS."

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